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19 September 1951

The Honorable Carlisle H. Humelsine
Deputy Under Secretary of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Humelsine:

Thank you for your letter of 19 September 1951 which enclosed excerpts from a memorandum to you written by [redacted] in connection with his questioning by the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee on 8 and 19 August 1951. At these Sessions [redacted] explained to the Subcommittee that he would be unable to answer fully certain questions addressed to him because of the security implications which would arise from his replies.

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Any replies which [redacted] could have made to these questions would necessarily have involved certain documents and projects which are classified Top Secret by the National Security Council and this Agency. In the interests of national security, [redacted] is not in a position to violate this classification nor is he authorized to discuss the subject matter of these documents, inasmuch as these projects come under the jurisdiction of the Central Intelligence Agency. By agreement however, the basic information concerning these documents and the reasons for their classification have been conveyed to Chairman McCarran and Senator Ferguson on 15 August 1951 by you and Mr. Pforzheimer of this Agency. In view of the above, [redacted] was quite correct in stating his inability to answer the Subcommittee's questions fully and in referring the matter to you.

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If further questions should arise in this connection, you are at full liberty to make a copy of this letter available to the Subcommittee and its counsel

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Walter B. Smith
Director

2-2341

SEP 11 1951

Dear General Smith:

On August 8 and August 10, 1951, Mr. John P. Davies of this Department appeared before the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security in executive session. During the hearings, he was questioned on a matter which is of primary concern to your agency. Quite properly, he declined to give answers to questions on the subject.

The record as it now stands shows some question as to Mr. Davies' authority for declining to answer certain questions. It also shows that he promised to transmit two requests to you. With this letter, I am sending you an excerpt from a memorandum Mr. Davies wrote immediately after the hearings which explains the nature of the two requests.

It seems to me that the best way to clear up the record would be for you to write a letter to Senator McCarran explaining the high secrecy of the program and the necessity for Mr. Davies responding as he did.

Sincerely yours,

Carlisle H. Humelsine

Enclosure

General Walter B. Smith, Director,
Central Intelligence Agency,
2430 "E" Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

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The Counsel then took note that I had declined to answer certain questions on the grounds that to do so would violate a top secret classification. What was the basis on which I claimed that the matters I refused to talk about were indeed top secret? Was there a document to which I could refer which established this top secret classification? I replied that there was such a document; it was a National Security Council document. I did not give the number of the document. Mr. Sourwine then stated that this was inadequate identification and would I please obtain the document for examination by the subcommittee. I stated that such a request should be addressed to the official in charge of the operation concerned, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, General Walter Bedell Smith. Mr. Sourwine indicated that the subcommittee preferred not to make a direct approach to General Smith and asked that I make the request, explaining that the document would be shown only to the Chairman in strict confidence. Senator Smith corrected the Counsel by asking that the document be shown to Senator McCarran only. I stated that I would transmit this request.

Mr. Sourwine then expressed the wish of the subcommittee that I would obtain permission to divulge to Senator McCarran, or possibly the subcommittee - I am not sure which - the full nature of the recommendations which I made with regard to the six persons in question. I agreed to pass on this request.